

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 June 2005 (30.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/058944 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C07K 14/47**, (A61K 38/17, A61P 35/00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2004/041639

(22) International Filing Date: 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 60/529,025 12 December 2003 (12.12.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 5 January 2006

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMMUNOGENIC PEPTIDES FRAGMENTS OF XAGE-1

(57) Abstract: XAGE-1 is a gene expressed in a number of important human cancers, including prostate cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, glioblastoma, pancreatic cancer, and melanoma. It has now been discovered that peptides of fifty or fewer amino acids comprising the sequence X₁X₂X₃PSAPSPX₄ (SEQ ID NO:5), where X₁ is any amino acid and is preferably G or Y; X₂ is selected from the group consisting of L, M, A, I, V, and T, with L and M being preferred; X₃ is a hydrophobic residue, M or A; and X₄ is V, M, L, A, I, or T, and is preferably V, bind to the HLA-A2 MHC class I molecule, and can be used to raise immune responses to XAGE-1-expressing cancers. In some embodiments, the P at position 7, the S at position 8, or the P at position 9, can be omitted to create a 9 amino acid peptide. The invention provides immunogenic peptides, nucleic acids encoding them, vectors comprising the nucleic acids, uses of the peptides and nucleic acids for manufacture of medicaments, methods of using the peptides and nucleic acids, and compositions of the peptides or nucleic acids in pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

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